CLAIMS

I claim:

5   1.   In a transmission system of the type in which a sending node sends a digital representation of real-time media to a receiving node in a sequence of Real Time Protocol (RTP) packets, wherein each RTP packet includes (a) a portion of the digital representation and (b) an RTP header containing information about the RTP packet including (i) a sequence number, (ii) a timestamp, (iii) payload format information, and (iv) a code that represents but does not actually

10   identify a source of the real-time media, a method comprising:

the sending node including in the RTP header of at least one packet of the sequence of RTP packets an actual identification of the source of the real-time media; and

the sending node transmitting the at least one packet, including the actual identification in the RTP header, to the receiving node.

15

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the source of the real-time media is selected from the group consisting of the sending node and a user of the sending node.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sending node is a conference server, wherein

20   the conference server receives the real-time media from a client station, and wherein the source of the real-time media is selected from the group consisting of the client station and a user of the client station.

- 24 -

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sending node is a first client station, and the receiving node is a conference server.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sending node is a client station and the receiving node is a client station.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the actual identification of the source comprises a text representation of the source.

7.   The method of claim 4, wherein the text representation comprises a text indication of a value selected from the group consisting of (i) a personal name, (ii) an e-mail address and (iii) a phone number.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein each RTP header includes a set of fixed header fields, and wherein including in the RTP header of at least one packet of the sequence of RTP packets stream an actual identification of the source of the real-time media comprises including the actual identification in an RTP header extension after the set of fixed header fields.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of RTP packets includes a first packet, and wherein including in the RTP header of at least one packet of the RTP stream an actual identification of the source of the real-time media comprises:

including the actual identification in the RTP header of the first packet of the sequence of RTP packets.

- 25 -

10. The method of claim 1, wherein including in the RTP header of at least one packet of the sequence of RTP packets stream an actual identification comprises:

including the actual identification in RTP headers periodically throughout the sequence

5   of RTP packets.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the receiving node acknowledging receipt of the actual identification.

10   12. The method of claim 11, wherein acknowledging receipt of the actual identification comprises:

sending to the sending node an RTP packet that includes an acknowledgement in an RTP header.

15   13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the sending node including the actual identification in sequential packets of the RTP sequence until the sending node receives the acknowledgement.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the real-time media is selected from the group

20   consisting of voice, audio and video.

15. A machine comprising:

a communication interface;

- 26 -

a processor;

data storage;

machine language instructions stored in the data storage and executable by the processor to perform functions including:

5   establishing a Real Time Protocol (RTP) stream carrying a digital representation of real-time media, the RTP stream comprising a sequence of RTP packets, each RTP packet including a portion of the digital representation and including an RTP header specifying (i) a sequence number, (ii) a timestamp, (iii) payload format information, and (iv) a code that represents a source of the real-time media but that does not actually

10   identify the source;

including in the RTP header of at least one RTP packet of the RTP stream an actual identification of the source of the real-time media; and

outputting the RTP stream, including the at least one RTP packet containing the actual identification in its RTP header, for transmission via the communication interface

15   to another machine.

16.   The machine of claim 15, wherein the actual identification is selected from the group consisting of (i) a personal name, (ii) an e-mail address and (iii) a phone number.

20   17.   The machine of claim 15, wherein the actual identification of the source comprises a text representation of the source.

- 27 -

18.   The machine of claim 15, wherein each RTP header includes a set of fixed header fields, and wherein including in the RTP header of at least one RTP packet of the RTP stream an actual identification of the source of the real-time media comprises including the actual identification in an RTP header extension after the set of fixed header fields.

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19.   In a conference server of the type that receives real-time media in an incoming Real Time Protocol (RTP) stream from a sending station and forwards the real-time media in an outgoing RTP stream to at least one receiving station, wherein each RTP stream comprises a sequence of packets each carrying a digital representation of a portion of the real-time media and

10   each having an RTP header that includes (i) a sequence number, (ii) a timestamp (iii) payload format information, and (iv) a synchronization source identifier code, a method comprising:

determining an actual identification of a source of the real-time media; and

inserting the actual identification into an RTP header of at least one RTP packet of the outgoing RTP stream.

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20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the actual identification comprises a value selected from the group consisting of (i) a personal name of a user of the sending station, (ii) an e-mail address of the user of the sending station and (iii) a phone number of the sending station.

20   21.   The method of claim 19, wherein determining the actual identification of the source comprises:

receiving the actual identification in an RTP header of an RTP packet of the incoming RTP stream.

- 28 -

22.   The method of claim 19, wherein determining the actual identification of the

source comprises:

reading the synchronization source identifier code from an RTP header of an RTP packet

5   of the incoming RTP stream; and

determining the actual identification based on the synchronization source identifier code.

23.   The method of claim 22, wherein determining the actual identification based on

the synchronization source identifier code comprises:

10   receiving a control packet that is not part of the incoming RTP stream and that specifies a

correlation between the synchronization source identifier code and the actual identification; and

using the correlation specified by the control packet to determine the actual identification

based on the synchronization source identifier code.

15   24.   The method of claim 22, wherein each RTP header includes a set of fixed header

fields, and wherein inserting the actual identification into an RTP header of at least one RTP

packet of the outgoing RTP stream comprises inserting the actual identification in an RTP header

extension after the set of fixed header fields.

20   25.   The method of claim 19, wherein the real-time media is selected from the group

consisting of voice, audio and video.

26. In a transmission system of the type in which a client station receives a Real Time Protocol (RTP) stream carrying a digital representation of real-time media and the client station uncovers the real-time media from the RTP stream and plays out the real-time media to a user, wherein the RTP stream comprises a sequence of RTP packets each containing (a) a portion of the digital representation and (b) an RTP header that includes (i) a sequence number, (ii) a timestamp, (iii) payload format information and (iv) a synchronization source identifier code, a method comprising:

the client station reading, from an RTP header of at least one RTP packet of the RTP stream, an actual identification of a source of the real-time media; and

the client station then presenting the actual identification to the user while the client station is playing out the real-time media to the user.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the actual identification is selected from the group consisting of (i) a personal name, (ii) an e-mail address and (iii) a phone number.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the actual identification of the source comprises a text representation of the source.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein each RTP header includes a set of fixed header fields, and wherein reading the actual identification from an RTP header of at least one RTP packet of the RTP stream comprises:

reading the actual identification from an RTP header extension following the set of fixed header fields.

- 30 -

30.   A machine comprising:

a communication interface for receiving a Real Time Protocol (RTP) stream carrying a

digital representation of real-time media, the RTP stream comprising a sequence of RTP packets

5   each containing a portion of the digital representation and each having an RTP header including

(i) a sequence number, (ii) a timestamp, (iii) payload format information and (iv) a

synchronization source identifier code, wherein the RTP header of at least one RTP packet of the

RTP stream further includes an actual identification of a source of the real-time media;

means for uncovering the real-time media from the RTP stream and playing out the real-

10   time media to a user;

means for reading the actual identification from the RTP header; and

means for presenting the actual identification to the user while playing out the real-time

media to the user.

15   31.   The machine of claim 30, wherein the means for uncovering, means for reading

and means for presenting comprise a programmed processor.

- 31 -